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New Grantees!

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Key Bridge Disaster Response

When the Key Bridge collapsed on March 26, creating hardship and heartache for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle responded. On March 28, Co-Chairs Ann Daniels and Salli Ward, along with other Circle members, participated in a conference call hosted by the Baltimore Community Foundation to discuss ways to respond to those in need. It was clear that structured and aligned giving would be most effective.

At its April 14 meeting, the BWGC Steering Committee approved a proposal to send \$10,000 to the Baltimore Community Foundation's Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong Key Bridge Fund. The fund will provide ongoing support to families, port workers, first responders, small businesses, and communities affected by this tragedy. For details about the fund, [click here](#).

The Circle also contacted all past grantees to see if any of them were affected by the Key Bridge collapse. Circle members will continue to receive information about helping those individual organizations.

Did You Know?

Since 2002, the BWGC has awarded **\$8,410,220** through **458** grants to **215** distinct organizations.

- Caroline Center received one of the first grants in 2002 and one of our most recent grants in 2024; it is tied with Baltimore Outreach Services for having received the most grants (nine).
- St. Vincent de Paul has received the most funds: \$195,000 from eight grants.
- The smallest grant was \$720 in 2009 to Karma Dogs, a program that provided support and comfort through dog visits to children displaced by domestic violence.
- 2022 was a record year both in number of grants given (26) and total amount (\$565,145).

Co-Chairs Message

As we prepare to say goodbye after two wonderful years as your Circle Co-Chairs, we are grateful to have held this position and thankful for the confidence the members placed in us. We are proud of the committee co-chairs who have used suggestions from the annual member surveys to expand what they are doing, incorporated ideas learned at Philanos, and worked to stay current with evolutions in the field of philanthropy.

We couldn't be happier than to be handing the reins to Barbara Epke and Renee Gordon. Barbara and Renee have a depth of knowledge and experience in the Circle that will serve them, and the members, well. We are excited to see what they bring to the BWGC!

Lastly, thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time, talent, and expertise over the past two years. We are fortunate to have such talented women who are willing to step up and serve.

All the best for a happy and healthy summer,

Ann and Salli



Incoming Co-Chairs Message

Greetings, Circle Members!

We hope that you are enjoying your summer. We are honored and excited to be the new Co-Chairs of the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle for 2024-2026. We are also grateful for the guidance of past Circle Co-Chairs, particularly Salli Ward and Ann Daniels, as we transition into our new roles. We see positive energy among Circle members, and we look forward to working with all of you.

We are busy preparing for the upcoming year, even during the summer! The Steering Committee is already hard at work planning events and activities to keep our members engaged and informed through the summer months and beyond.

We are keenly aware that your energy and involvement keep the Circle moving forward, and we encourage you to contact us by phone, text, or email to let us know what you are thinking.

In July, we will reach out to you again with a preview of the upcoming year. You will also be receiving notification by email about joining a Circle committee. We encourage you to participate in a committee this year; committee participation allows you to see the many ways in which the Circle impacts our community. For our newer members, joining a committee is also a wonderful way to get to know other Circle members, which, we know, is a real interest for most members.

In August, you will receive your membership renewal notice. This is a great time to introduce family, friends, and neighbors to the Circle. Except for a small portion of funds that go to Circle operations, all of your membership dollars support the organizations that advance opportunities for women and their families in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

In the meantime, enjoy your summer and watch your email for Circle communications. We look forward to hearing from you. See you in the fall!

Renee and Barbara



Introducing New Circle Leaders

The Circle is led by the Steering Committee, which includes six Circle officers and 16 committee co-chairs. The SC oversees the Circle's management and operations.

Every year the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee is responsible for selecting new officers and new committee co-chairs to serve two-year terms.

The archivist position has been changed to assistant secretary due to the administrative assistant's assuming the archivist's duties. Sharon Nathanson and Susan Anderson will be job-sharing as one co-chair for Education, with Ellen Stifler remaining for her second year.

The NLDC identifies and nominates new officers and new committee co-chairs to serve two-year terms. This year's slate of officers was ratified by the full Circle via an electronic vote with overwhelming support.

Many thanks to the members of the NLDC:

Susan Hovanec and Susan Perl (NLDC Co-Chairs), Hilary Campodonico, Dawna Cobb, Louise Kemper, Georgia King, Susan Shubin, and Bonnie Stainman.



The 2024-2025 Steering Committee was introduced at the May Full Circle (Report on page 6)

The NLDC is pleased to present the following Circle officers and committee co-chairs for 2024-2025:

CIRCLE CO-CHAIRS:

Barbara Epke* and Renee Gordon*

SECRETARY:

Ida Samet*

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

Dorie Fain*

TREASURER:

Linda Blonsley*

ASSISTANT TREASURER:

Christine Schmitz*

COMMUNICATIONS:

Kelly Chew and Sarah Grebow*

EDUCATION:

Ellen Stifler, Sharon Nathanson*, and Susan Anderson*

GRANTS:

Ellen Cooper and Jaclyn Vorenkamp*

GRANTEE CONNECT:

Bobbie Miyasaki* and Catherine Morris*

MEMBERSHIP:

Lisa Field and Pam Pasqualini*

POST GRANTS:

Mayer Martin and Jackie Donowitz*

REDI:

Mary Jo Wiese and Phyllis Kolman*

NLDC:

Susan Perl and Bonnie Stainman*

*new for 2024-2025

Grants

Each year, the BWGC awards grants to organizations aligned with the Circle's Mission, Vision, and Values based on funds available in the grants pool, which includes monies from member dues. This year, the Circle awarded \$493,767, an increase of nearly \$50,000 over last year and reflects the availability of increased membership dues.

Fourteen teams of five grant readers reviewed 121 applications (vs. 94 in 2023), conducted site visits with organizations, and recommended 47 for funding, of which 20 were funded. Six of the 20 organizations funded are first-time BWGC grantees, and three of those were first-time applicants. Eight small organizations (with budgets of up to \$500,000) were funded, along with one large organization (with a budget of \$5 million-plus). The majority were small- and mid-sized.

Below is a list of the 20 grantees:

ADVOCACY

PREPARE Inc., \$25,000

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Dundalk Renaissance, \$25,000

FOOD & HUNGER SERVICES

UEmpower of Maryland, \$25,000

HEALTH SERVICES

*Baltimore Doula Project, \$19,492

*Rob's Barbershop Community Foundation, \$25,000

*ShareBaby, \$25,000

*The Violet Project, \$25,000

HOUSING

*Fight Blight Bmore, \$25,000

Night of Peace Family Shelter, Inc., \$25,000

LIFE SKILLS

Drink at the Well, \$25,000

LITERACY/EDUCATION

Goucher Prison Education Partnership, \$25,000

Immigration Outreach Service Center, \$25,000

St. Francis Neighborhood Center, \$25,000

SERVICES TO SENIORS

*Lori's Hands, \$24,275

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Biotechnical Institute of Maryland, Inc., \$25,000

Caroline Center, \$25,000

PIVOT Baltimore, \$25,000

Vehicles for Change, \$25,000

MISCELLANEOUS

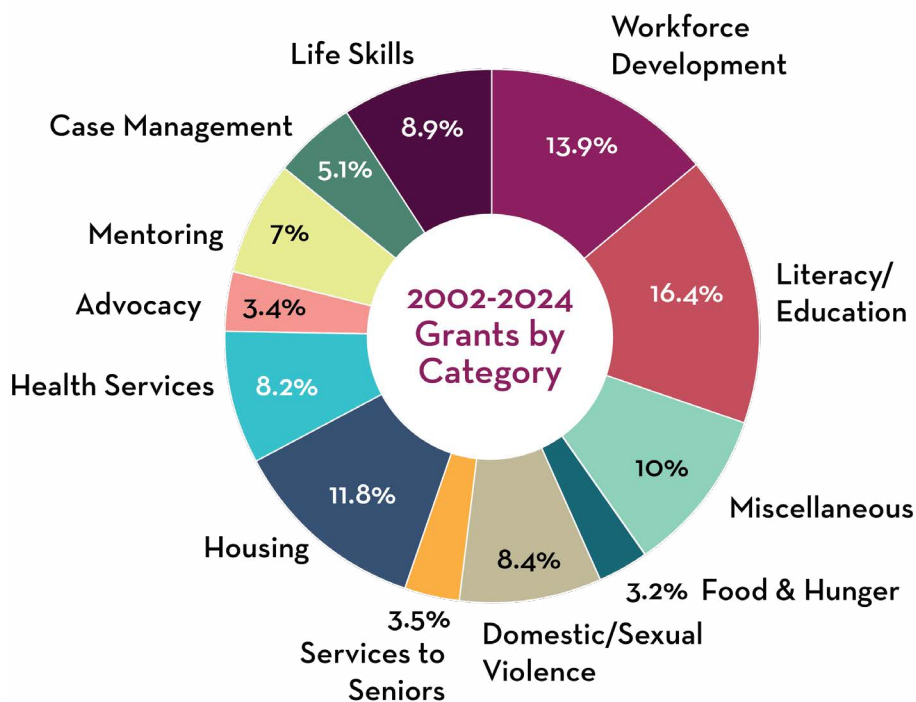
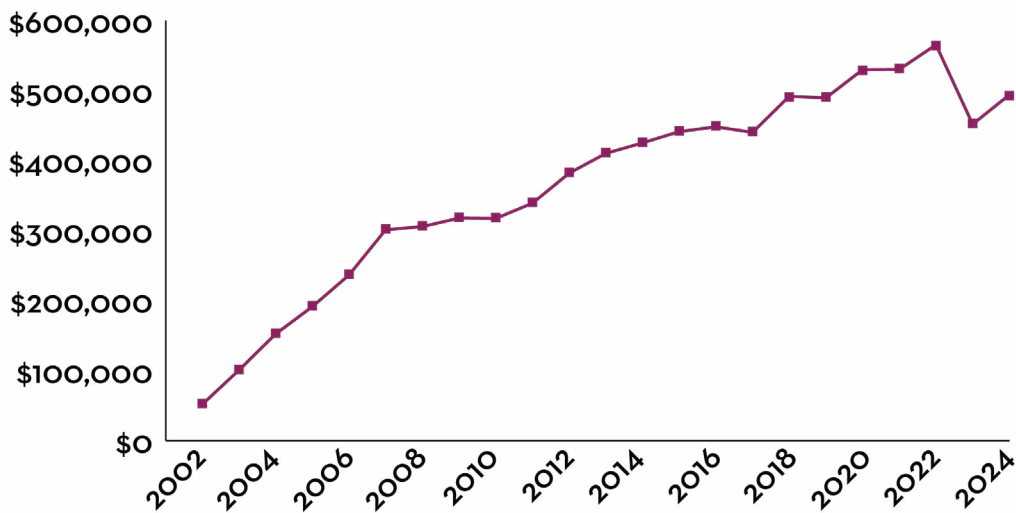
GEDCO, \$25,000

Saint Luke's Youth Center, \$25,000

*First-time grantee.

Our Grant Giving Over the Years

Since the BWGC gave its first grants in 2002, a total of \$8,410,220 has been awarded through 458 grants to 215 distinct organizations to support women and their families in the Baltimore area. Those grants have covered a wide range of categories, with Literacy/ Education and Workforce Development receiving the highest percentage of grant dollars over the years.



Miscellaneous includes:

- Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- Emergency Grants
- Financial Literacy
- Grants Learning Lab
- Legal Services
- Parenting Skills
- Other

Each category above totals less than \$250,000

May Full Circle

On May 15, BWGC members celebrated the Circle's 2023-2024 year at Chuzik Amuno and on Zoom.

First, the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee presented the Circle's new officers and co-chairs and thanked those who had completed their terms.

The Grants Committee previewed 20 new grantees who received awards in April 2024. Mary-Ann Pinkard gave an informative overview of trends in applications and grant data for the past five years.

Post Grants reported on the 2023 grantees, focusing on Adelante Latina! and HER Resiliency Center.

Members provided donations for Manna House, which helps Baltimore City's homeless and poor move toward independence and stability.

Incoming Circle Co-Chairs Barbara Epke and Renee Gordon spoke about their passion for the Circle and their upcoming term.

A members reception followed.

Download a recording of the meeting [here](#).



Kiera Caffrey Honored

BWGC member Kiera Caffrey, a rising high school senior, has been selected as a 2024 JA 18 Under 18 honoree by Junior Achievement of Central Maryland. The program, in its second year, recognizes 18 inspiring individuals under the age of 18 from Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties, and Baltimore City. Honorees will be featured in the June issue of Baltimore magazine. Caffrey, the founder of Baltimore Teen Giving Circle, has also been recognized by the Maryland Commission on Women as one of its five 2024 Maryland Young Women Leaders.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications

The Communications Committee continues to focus on BWGC newsletters, social media, and the website.

Circle publications report on events and highlight grantees. Distribution has been expanded to include all grantees, current and past members, and friends of the Circle. Communications works with all committees to obtain articles and photographs for each newsletter.

The Committee has increased the number of postings to all BWGC social media platforms, where they now appear on a rotating schedule.

The group has also evaluated template options for MemberLeap as the BWGC prepares to transition the website to a new service provider. Website content will be reviewed over the next months.

Education

The spring Circle Forum meeting on April 25 at the Roland Park Community Center featured Circle grant recipient Per Scholas. The organization trains low-wage workers in computer skills, enabling them to obtain higher-paying jobs and careers. In a presentation, followed by a lively Q&A with Circle attendees, members of the Per Scholas staff and their managing director described how the program works and why it succeeds.



Circle Reads met on May 7 at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. The discussion was on *\$2 A Day, Living on Almost Nothing in America* by Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Schaefer.

Grantee Connect

On a May morning, 47 grantees from 42 organizations gathered at Church of the Redeemer in Baltimore for the Grantee Connect Spring Forum to learn about a groundbreaking topic



- Community Centric Fundraising (CCF). The speakers, Dannielle Sturgeon and Dani Faulkner, development professionals associated with Baltimore Corps and Arts for Learning Maryland, respectively, are practitioners of this fundraising framework grounded in equity and social justice.

“CCF is a model that puts donors and organizations on a more equal footing ... And pushes for

unrestricted funding!” they stressed. It promotes nonprofit collaboration, recognizes all kinds of donations, encourages challenging conversations with funders, avoids the perpetuation of stereotypes, and elevates the value of nonprofits’ time and work.

After the speakers’ presentation, grantees discussed the topic with their peers.

Learn more at CommunityCentricFundraising.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONT.

Membership

The Membership Committee has had a busy spring.

Five women attended the May 1 prospective member event. Patty Feick, case manager and volunteer coordinator at Manna House, spoke eloquently about the services that Manna House has offered the poor and homeless for the past 50 years. Today, Manna House provides food, clothing, healthcare, and case management services for women with the goal of improving their circumstances and helping them gain independence and stability.

The Committee's April 15 meeting, hosted by Sherry Billig, was followed by a celebratory luncheon designed to foster the Committee's commitment to work together and to enjoy each other's company.

The June 8 new member hike, led by Marsha Ramsay, brought 11 members to Lake Roland who saw turtles and a pileated woodpecker and heard frogs.

Post Grants

Grantees are preparing their final reports, with final liaison reports for all grantees due on August 15.

Post Grants highlighted two grantees at the May 15 Full Circle, HER Resiliency and Adelante Latina.

The Post Grants year-end meeting and wrap-up wine and cheese event took place this month.

Circle Works asks Circle members to donate gently used or new children's books in both English and Spanish for Health Care for the Homeless and to help set up its library on June 26. (See Circle Works report below)

The committee urges Circle members to sign up to join the Post Grants committee (and its sub-committee, Circle Works) by July 31.

Circle Works

Circle Works is collecting books for an event taking place June 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at former grantee Health Care for the Homeless (HCH), 421 Fallsway, Baltimore.

The goal is to collect gently used or new books for HCH's library for readers from preschool to teens. HCH would be grateful for books in Spanish.

Circle members attending the event will label, sort, shelve books, create bags of art supplies, then share lunch with HCH staff to learn more about the organization.

To help, or for more information, contact Circle Works, postgrants@thebwgc.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONT.

Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (REDI)

Racial Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (REDI) continued to educate Circle members about trends in philanthropy with its April 17 “Conversation”, “Emerging Ideas: Imagining the Future of the BWGC.” The program focused on the Circle’s community relationships, diversification of its membership, and explored a process for future strategic planning.

REDI also helped the Grants Committee simplify the BWGC grant application and to create a set-aside for smaller non-profits. REDI members are meeting with other area funders to gauge the Circle’s niche in the larger Baltimore philanthropic community. This feedback will help the Circle evaluate how it engages with the larger community. REDI hopes to share this research with the full membership next year.

New Members

Erica Breslau

Emily Halligan

Andrea Jones

Allison Parker

Terri Wurmser

Calendar of Events

9/18 Full Circle Meeting

12/11 Full Circle Meeting

Contributors

Kelly Chew

Ann Daniels

Liz Dausch

Judy Dobbs

Barbara Epke

Lisa Field

Silvia Blitzer Golombek

Renee Gordon

Katie Lekin

Joyce Moskovitz

Susan Perl

Mary-Ann Pinkard

Anita Pomerantz

Ruth Sadler

Jane Strausbaugh

Ellen Stifler

Salli Ward

Carol Yoder